MINUTES

OF THE

Louisiana Annual Conference

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

December 12-17, 1877.

The thirty-second session of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, was held in the Court House at Opelousas, La., beginning on Wednesday, December 12th, 1877, and ending Monday, December 17th, 1877.

The daily sessions were held from 9½ A. M. to 2½ P. M., and were opened with religious services, conducted by the Bishop and various members of the Conference.

Christian Keener was elected Secretary, and William Hart as his assistant.

The following members were present during the session:

CLERICAL.—Jos. B. Walker, D. D., John Mathews, John T. Sawyer, Linus Parker, D.D., Lewis A. Reed, C. Keener, J. A. Ivy, C. W. Carter, R. S. Trippett, H. O. White, T. S. Randle, N. S. Cornell, J. L. Wright, G. T. Freeman, Baxter Clegg, Wm. Hart, J. A. Miller, J. M. McKee, M. C. Manly, J. F. Patterson, Robt. Parvin, Felix G. Hocutt, J. W. Hearn, R. T. Parish, J. T. Daves, A. E. Goodwyn, R. Randle, J. Pipes, J. M. Brown, R. M. Crowson, Geo. M. Liverman, Philip Allen, Silas H. Cooper, C. R. Godfrey, J. F. Wynn, John Hannon, James E. Cobb, R. S. Isbell, R. A. Davis, Ben. F. White, J. F. Scurlock, A. E. Clay, J. J. Billingsley, J. M. Johnston, J. D. Harper, E. B. Foust, Geo. Jackson, W. D. Stayton, Fred White, J. V. Pointer, A. A. Cornett, Jas. E. Bradley, B. F. Alexander, Phil. H. Moss.

LAY.—J. L. Scales, W. H. N. Magruder, B. O. L. Rayne, C. A.

Frazee, Dan'l. Brewer, David Riggs, James A. Biggs, Dr. William Walker, Jesse Clark.

On the second day of the Conference session, Bishop R. Paine arrived and took the chair, the Conference having already organized by calling Rev. John Pipes to the chair.

The Presiding Elders were constituted a committee to fill various committees required, and reported the following nominations, which were approved by the Conference, viz:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Jas. E. Cobb, J. J. Billingsley, R. S. Isbell.

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

B. F. White, J. M. Brown, John L. Scales,

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

John Pipes, Jas. E. Bradley, W. H. N. Magruder, Calvin E. Frazee.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH PUBLICATIONS.

J. T. Daves, J. T. Sawyer, R. S. Isbell, Jesse Clark, B. O. L. Rayne.

COMMITTEE ON BIBLE CAUSE.

Jos. B. Walker, H. O. White, Dan'l. Brewer.

The regular Disciplinary questions were then taken up, as follows:

QUESTION 1. Who are admitted on trial?

ANSWER 1. R. M. Blocker, Jas. A. Biggs, Tiff Foster, Patrick Calvin.

Q. 2. Who remain on trial?

A. S. H. Werlein, Thomas J. Hough, T. K. Faunt LeRoy, J. B. Cassidy, J. L. P. Sheppard, D. A. Boddie, Able Hoffpauir.

Q. 3. Who are discontinued?

A. None.

Q. 4. Who are admitted into full connection?

A. None.

Q. 5. Who are re-admitted?

A. None.

Q. 6. Who are received by transfer?

A. John Hannon, J. T. Graham.

Q. 7. Who are deacons of one year?

A. None.

Q. 8. What traveling preachers are elected deacons?

A. None.

Q. 9. What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?

A. None.

Q. 10. What local preachers are elected deacons?

A. R. M. Blocker, D. L. Mitchel, Wm. Warner, John Odum.

Q. 11. What local preachers are ordained deacons?

A. By Bishop Robert Paine, after the 11 o'clock A. M. service in the Methodist Church Opelousas, La., R. M. Blocker, Wm. Warner, John Odum.

Q. 12. What traveling preachers are elected elders?

A. J. W. Hearn, T. S. Randle.

Q. 13. What traveling preachers are ordained elders?

A. By Bishop Robert Paine, after the 3 o'clock P. M. service in the Methodist Church in Opelousas, La., John W. Hearn, and Thomas S. Randle.

Q. 14. What local preachers are elected elders?

A. None.

Q. 15. What local preachers are ordained elders?

A. None.

Q. 16. Who are located this year?

A. None.

Q. 17. Who are supernumerary this year?

A. Silas H. Cooper, Sam'l. H. Schroeder, William R. Whatley, A. G. Miller, J. M. Franklin.

Q. 18. Who are superannuated this year?

A. H. C. Thweatt, J. S. Davis, W. E. Doty, E. W. Yancy, Philo M. Goodwyn, Joel Saunders, Phil. H. Diffenweirth, J. C. Reid, Jesse Fulton.

Q. 19. What preachers have died this year?

A. None.

Q. 20. Are all the preachers blameless in their lives and official administration?

A. Their names were called one by one and their characters were examined and passed.

Q. 21. What is the number of local preachers and members in the several stations, circuits and missions of the Conference?

A.	Local preachers,	76,	members,	15,022
	Last year,	81,	last year,	13,990
	Decrease	5	Increase	1022

Q. 22. What is the number of infants baptized this year?

A. This year 617
Last year 695

Decrease 78

Q. 23. What is the number of adults baptized this year?

A. This year 794
Last year 694

Increase 100

Q. 24. What is the number of Sunday Schools?

A. This year 119
Last year 118

Increase 1

Q. 25. What is the number of Sunday School teachers?

A. This year 791
Last year 720

Increase 71

Q. 26. What is the number of scholars?

A. This year 5237
Last year 5175

Increase 62

Q. 27. What amount is necessary for superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers?

A. $3380 00.

Q. 28. What has been collected on the foregoing accounts during the past year, and how has it been applied?

A. $1983, and paid pro rata to claimants.

Q. 26. What has been collected for missions?

A. For Foreign Missions $2487 95
Last year 2232 73

Increase ..... $ 255 22

For Domestic Missions $780 65
Last Year 750 40

Increase ..... $ 30 25

Q. 30. Where shall the next session of the Conference be held?

A. New Orleans, La.

Q. 31. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

ANSWER:

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT.....LINUS PARKER, P. E.
- Carondelet Street.....John Mathews.
- Felicity Street.....Joseph B. Walker.
- St. Charles Avenue.....John Hannon.
- Moreau Street.....Tiff Foster.
- S. H. Schroeder, Supernumerary.
- Louisiana Avenue.....S. H. Werlein.
- Algiers.....To be supplied.
- Lafourche Mission.....Lewis A. Reed.
- Baton Rouge.....J. T. Sawyer.
- Plaquemine and Grossè Tête.....T. K. Fauntleroy.
- Editor N. O. Christian Advocate.....Linus Parker.
- New Orleans Book Depository.....R. J. Harp.
- South Western Bible Society.....James A. Ivy.
- Institute for the Blind, B. Rouge.....Pat. Lane.

DELHI DISTRICT.....JAMES L. WRIGHT, P. E.
- Monroe and Delhi.....P. H. Moss, J. Lane Borden.
- Trenton.....C. W. Carter.
- Bastrop.....Henry O. White.
- Lind Grove.....W. P. Owen.
- Oak Ridge.....N. S. Cornell.
- Rayville.....Thos. H. McClendon.
- Winnsboro.....B. F. Alexander.
- Oakley.....James M. McKee.
- Waterproof.....J. T. Graham.
- Tensas Mission } .....To be supplied.
- Tensas Chapel } .....A. M. Wailes.
- Lake Providence & Pecan Grove.....R. S. Trippett.
- Floyd.....Thomas S. Randle.
- Madison.....To be supplied.

HOMER DISTRICT.....JOSEPH H. STONE, P. E.
- Homer.....James A. Parker.
- Lisbon.....Robt. Parvin.
- Haynesville.....John A. Miller.
- Minden.....James E. Bradley.
- Sparta.....R. M. Crowson.
- Arcadia.....Thos. J. Upton.
- Vernon.....A. A. Cornett.
- Indian Village.....Robt. T. Parish.
- Rochester.....To be supplied by F. T. Rawson.
- Downsville.....John F. Patterson.
- Farmerville.....C. W. Hodge.
- Webster.....Whitmel P. Kimball.

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.....ROBERT RANDLE, P. E.
- Shreveport.....Joel T. Daves.
- Mooringsport.....R. A. Davis.
- Caddo.....J. M. Johnston.
- Logansport Mission.....John Pipes.
- DeSoto.....George M. Liverman.
- Mansfield.....J. M. Brown.
- Pleasant Hill.....John B. Cassity.
- J. M. Franklin, Supernumerary.
- Natchitoches.....Thos. J. Hough.

Natchitoches Circuit } ....supplied by J. A. Monroe.
Anacoco } ....Robt M. Blocker.
Springville....W. D. Stayton.
East Point....To be supplied.
South Bossier....Joseph W. Medlock.
North Bossier....Wm. Hart.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT ....CHRISTIAN KEENER, P. E.
Alexandria and Pineville....To be supplied.
Rapides ....John L. P. Sheppard.
Montgomery....Philip Allen.
Harrisonburg and Sicily Island....C. R. Godfrey.
Centerville....David A. Boddie.
W. R. Whatley, Supernumerary.
Trinity....George Jackson.
Columbia ....John F. Wynn.
Castor ....James A. Biggs.
Bayou Bœuff....Felix G. Hocutt.
S. H. Cooper, Supernumerary.
Evergreen....Frederick White.
Spring Creek....John W. Hearn.

OPELOUSAS DISTRICT....JACOB D. HARPER, P. E.
Opelousas } ....J. J. Billingsley.
Grand Coteau } ....J. V. Pointer.
Washington....R. S. Isbell.
Vermilionville & Plaq. Brulée....Baxter Clegg.
Abbeville ....Enos B. Foust.
Indian Bayou....Abel Hoffpauir.
New Iberia ....M. C. Manley.
James E. Cobb.
Franklin....B. F. White.
Pattersonville and Morgan City....Alfred E. Clay.
Lake Charles....J. F. Scurlock.
Grand Chenière....George T. Freeman.
Sugar Town....P. Galvin.
Calcasieu Mission....To be supplied by W. Pilley.

SUPERANNUATED.—H. C. Thweatt, John S. Davis, W. E. Doty, E. W. Yancey, P. M. Goodwyn, Joel Saunders, P. H. Diffenweirth J. C. Reid, Jesse Fulton.

TRANSFERRED.—To Texas Conference, A. E. Goodwyn.

BAPTISMS.

Questions 22 and 23. How many infants and adults have been baptized during the year?

Answer:

	ADULTS.	INFANTS.
New Orleans District	40	93
Delhi District	185	115
Homer District	221	116
Shreveport District	89	88
Alexandria District	164	230
Opelousas District	95	175
	794	817

MEMBERSHIP.

What is the number of local preachers and members in the various Stations, Circuits and Missions of the Louisiana Conference?

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT.

	MEMBERS.		LOCAL PREACHERS.
Carondelet Street	565	col'd 5	3
Felicity Street	383	col'd 4	1
St. Charles Avenue	136		
Moreau Street	92		
Louisiana Avenue	134		
Algiers	128		
Lafourche Mission	81		
Plaquemine and Grosse Tête	37		
Baton Rouge	251		
White,	1,807,	col'd 9	4

DELHI DISTRICT.

Monroe and Delhi	222		1
Trenton	180		1
Bastrop	134		1
Lind Grove	240		1
Oak Ridge	80		
Rayville	208	col'd 1	
Winnsboro	228		1
Oakley	192	col'd 1	
Waterproof and St. Joseph	7[illegible]		1
Tensas	77		
Floyd	300		5
Lake Providence and Pecan Grove	57		1
White,	1,991,	col'd 2	12

HOMER DISTRICT.

Homer	386		3
Lisbon	358		4
Haynesville	323		2
Minden	279		
Sparta	280		3
Arcadia	369		1
Vernon	520		1
Indian Village	337		3
Lewisville	173		
Downsville	525		
Farmerville	190		
Webster	200		1
White,	3,940,		18

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.

Shreveport	178		
Mooringsport	79		1
Caddo	262		
Logansport Mission			

De Soto	248		.....	
Mansfield	142		.....	1
Pleasant Hill	531		.....	3
Natchitoches and St. Maurice	48		.....	
Natchitoches Circuit	.....		.....	
Anacoco and Leesville	300	col'd 1	.....	6
Springville	196		.....	3
East Point and Lindsay's Chapel	.....		.....	
South Bossier	183		.....	1
North Bossier	145		.....	1
	White, 2,312,	col'd 1		16

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT.

Alexandria and Pineville	100		.....	
Rapides	375	col'd 5	.....	3
Montgomery	223	" 6	.....	2
Harrisonburg and Sicily Island	216	" 15	.....	1
Centerville	419	" 40	.....	2
Columbia	355		.....	3
Castor	96		.....	1
Saline	.....		.....	
Colfax	134	col'd 1	.....	1
Bayou Bœuff	125		.....	2
Evergreen	200		.....	
Spring Creek	248		.....	4
	White, 2,491,	col'd 67		19

OPELOUSAS DISTRICT.

Opelousas	100		.....	2
Washington	151		.....	
Vermilionville and Plaq. Brulée	168		.....	
Grand Coteau	40		.....	
Abbeville	96		.....	
Pauperville	880		.....	1
New Iberia	227		.....	
Franklin	134		.....	
Pattersonville and Morgan City	100		.....	1
Lake Charles	75		.....	
Grand Chenière	130	col'd 10	.....	1
Sugar Town	210		.....	2
Calcasieu Mission	71		.....	
	White, 2,382,	col'd 10		7

RECAPITULATION.

New Orleans District	1807	col'd 9	.....	4
Delhi District	1991	" 2	.....	12
Homer District	3940		.....	18
Shreveport District	2312	" 1	.....	16
Alexandria District	2491	" 67	.....	19
Opelousas District	2382	" 10	.....	7
Aggregate..... White,	14,923	col'd 89		76
Last year	13,990			81
Increase	933	col'd 89		

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Questions 24, 25, 26.—What is the number of Sunday Schools, Teachers and Scholars? Answer:

	Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Volumes in Library.	Collected for Sabbath Schools.	Collected for Missions.	Periodicals Taken.	Scholars Received Into the Church.
New Orleans District.								
Carondelet Street	1	36	240	1000	$156 45	$203 50	280	19
Felicity Street	1	32	275	1850	172 72	206 50	150	10
Moreau Street	1	12	120	1200	25 00	83 00	100	3
Louisiana Avenue	2	31	250	500	195 00	5 00	353	23
St. Charles Avenue	2	19	155	300	68 00	.....	125	5
Algiers	1	15	129	125	50 00	52 65	100	3
Lafourche Mission	1	7	10	200	.....	.....	.....	5
Plaquemine and Grosse Tête	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Baton Rouge	1	21	190	500	200 00	20 00	100	27
	10	173	1369	5675	867 17	570 65	1208	95
Delhi District.								
Monroe and Delhi	3	30	200	500	350 00	52 40	202	25
Trenton	2	25	100	487	60 10	12 10	150	3
Bastrop	1	12	75	175	25 00	.....	116	5
Lind Grove	3	8	45	.....	39 75	.....	118	10
Oak Ridge	1	8	40	50	10 00	.....	.....	.....
Rayville	1	8	30	100	19 50	.....	30	.....
Winnsboro	2	10	100	.....	7 00	.....	.....	15
Oakley	1	3	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Waterproof and St. Joseph	1	8	43	343	37 00	.....	25	.....
Tensas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Floyd	3	10	100	300	10 00	.....	50	.....
Lake Providence and Pecan Grove	2	10	79	200	35 00	.....	75	2
	20	132	824	2155	595 35	64 50	766	60
Homer District.								
Homer	3	24	112	.....	22 00	.....	.....	23
Lisbon	2	10	40	250	.....	.....	.....	.....
Haynesville	1	8	60	.....	.....	10 00	.....	15
Minden	2	16	116	267	29 00	.....	146	10
Sparta	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....	.....
Arcadia	2	10	50	.....	31 00	.....	33	5
Vernon	3	18	100	220	15 00	.....	25	.....
Indian Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Downsville	4	20	120	150	10 00	.....	35	12
Lewisville	2	6	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Farmersville	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Webster	2	7	45	60	.....	.....	.....	.....
	21	119	683	947	110 00	10 00	262	42

Shreveport District.	Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Volumes in Library.	Collected for Sabbath Schools.	Collected for Missions.	Periodicals Taken.	Scholars Received Into the Church.
Shreveport	1	16	130	500	50 00		125	10
Caddo	3	17	83	150	24 00		37	5
Mooringsport	1	7	31	82	8 35		20	
De Soto	3	14	125	50	25 00		75	1
Mansfield	1	12	90	150	25 00	10 00	100	3
Pleasant Hill	6	30	180	200	29 00	1 70	150	20
Natchitoches and St. Maurice	1	9	55	250	50 00		125	7
Natchitoches Circuit								
Anacoco and Leesville	7	28	145		20 00			20
Springville	1	5	25		6 30		30	1
Logansport Mission								
East Point and Lindsay's Chapel								
South Bossier	1	6	30	50	10 00		25	
North Bossier								
Alexandria District.	25	144	894	1432	247 65	11 70	687	67
Alexandria and Pineville	1	5	40	40	32 65			5
Rapides	4	25						10
Montgomery					7 00			
Harrisonburg and Sicily Island	3	13	59	149	20 70		20	8
Centerville	4	10	200	200	12 00			16
Columbia	1	8	25	300	10 00			
Castor	2	6	32					5
Saline								
Colfax	2	8	40					
Bayou Bœuff								
Evergreen	2	9	71	200			20	6
Spring Creek	3	15	70					
Opelousas District.	22	99	537	889	82 35		40	50
Opelousas	1	6	50	156	20 00		175	
Washington	3	12	82	200	11 00		35	4
Vermilionville and Plaq. Brulée	4	19	128	396	9 50	5 00		
Grand Coteau								
Abbeville	2	10	65	250	15 00		15	
Pauperville	1	10	35				15	
New Iberia	1	8	74	200	42 00	26 00	150	1
Franklin	2	15	91	230	11 10		85	17
Pattersonville and Morgan City	1	5	35		15 00		12	
Lake Charles	1	12	80	200	37 00		83	
Grand Chenierè	2	12	60		15 00			
Sugar Town	3	15	230	65	54 00		56	9
Calcasieu Mission								
	21	124	930	1697	319 60	31 00	620	31

Recapitulation.	Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Volumes in Library.	Collected for Sabbath Schools.	Collected for Missions.	Periodicals Taken.	Scholars Received Into the Church.
New Orleans District	10	173	1369	5675	867 17	570 65	1208	95
Delhi District	20	132	824	2155	595 35	64 50	766	60
Homer District	21	119	683	947	100 00	10 00	262	42
Shreveport District	25	144	894	1432	247 65	11 70	687	67
Alexandria District	22	99	537	889	82 35	.....	40	50
Opelousas District	21	124	930	1697	319 60	31 00	620	31
Aggregate	119	791	5237	12795	2,212 12	687 85	3583	345
Last Year	118	720	5175	14882	1,731 00	784 00	2506	159

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS FOR WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' AND SUPERANNUATED PREACHERS.

Mrs. Fielding Bell	$65 00	taken by L. Parker.
Mrs. W. G. McGaughey	90 00	" J. L. Wright.
Joel Saunders	120 00	" L. Parker.
Mrs. R. Randle	90 00	" R. Randle.
P. H. Diffenweirth	255 00	" J. L. Wright.
Orphans of C. J. Halberg	50 00	" L. Parker.
Mrs. J. H. Waters	40 00	" C. R. Godfrey.
Mrs. R. R. Alexander and orphans	110 00	" B. F. Alexander.
J. S. Davis	175 00	" Robert A. Davis.
E. W. Yancy	165 00	" John F. Wynn.
H. C. Thweatt	110 00	" R. Randle.
J. C. Reid	230 00	" J. M. McKee.
Mrs. John Wilkinson	258 00	" C. Keener.
Mrs. J. D. Adams	160 00	" D. Riggs.

BISHOPS' CLAIM.

Amount apportioned to the Conference	$800 00
Amount paid Bishop Paine in cash and vouchers	678 35
Deficit	$121 65

JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 1878.

Clerical—John Mathews, T. H. McClendon, J. A. Parker, J. M. Brown, John F. Wynn, B. F. White.

Lay—B. O. L. Rayne, H. P. Wells, R. J. Bowman, W. F. Moreland, Samford McCutcheon, David Riggs.

APPORTIONMENTS FOR 1878.

For Conference Claimants		$4,530 00
New Orleans District	$1,200 00	
Delhi District	700 00	
Opelousas District	600 00	
Homer District	800 00	
Shreveport District	800 00	
Alexandria District	430 00	
		$4,530 00

For Bishops' Claim		$800 00
New Orleans District	$300 00	
Delhi District	100 00	
Opelousas District	100 00	
Homer District	125 00	
Shreveport District	125 00	
Alexandria District	50 00	
		$800 00
For Foreign Missions		$3,450 00
New Orleans District	$1,250 00	
Delhi District	500 00	
Homer District	550 00	
Shreveport District	550 00	
Alexandria District	250 00	
Opelousas District	350 00	
		$3,450 00
Domestic Missions		$1,175 00
New Orleans District	$350 00	
Delhi District	150 00	
Homer District	200 00	
Shreveport District	200 00	
Alexandria District	125 00	
Opelousas District	150 00	
		$1,175 00

MISSIONS.

The Conference Missionary Anniversary was held in the Church at Opelousas, Saturday night, December 15th, 1877.

The meeting was opened with religious services, Rev. John Mathews pr sent and presiding. The speakers of the evening were Rev. C. W. Carter, Treasurer, and Rev. A. E. Goodwyn.

Rev. Joel T. Daves, Secretary, and C. W. Carter, Treasurer, presented their reports, as follows:

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF BOARD OF MISSIONS OF THE LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

To the Bishop and Members of the Louisiana Annual Conference M. E. Church South, in Session, Opelousas, La.

DEAR BRETHREN:—A merciful Providence brings us to meet again in our Annual Conference Session.

We are here to review the past, consider the present and plan for the future. Surely we have cause first of all, for offerings of profound gratitude to Almighty God, that our circle remains unbroken. We have been kindly cared for. Our wants have all been supplied. Our lives have been precious in the sight of our Father. Considering the dangers through which we have passed—dangers common to all—our exhausting anxieties and wearing labor—of the thousands that have fallen at our side and the ten thousands at our right hand, it seems almost a miracle,

That we are yet alive
And see each other's face.

Still, bound to our spirits is the badge of sorrow. We are called to tears and mourning before God. We stand still and look on in wonder and amazement. While our own immediate conference circle remains intact, the great connectional heart has been made to vibrate to the heaviest strokes of death. He has been dainty—choice in his victims. A profound Duncan, a glorious Munsey, a sweetly spiritual Marvin, a noble heroic Bledsoe! What a shining crown he bears away from our hearts and homes and lives!

When the versatile, brilliant Munsey went down, we mourned a good man gone—a real brother dead—warm hearted, simple minded, childlike brother—grand in his greatness—glorious in his simplicity. To us, however, it was like the passing of the blazing, flashing comet. Across the pathway of the skies it ploughed its fiery way and burned its beauty into our very hearts. We look still and see in imagination the trailing light long after it has faded into darkness. When a profound, full orbed Duncan fell—fell at his post—fell in the prime of life, and in the zenith of his usefulness, we sorrowed more deeply. We mourned as those who had lost more than a brilliant meteor, a burning, bright sun, as well. It did seem, as we stood by that loved, precious body, and looked down into that calm still face—lovely in death, that we could bear no more; that death had exhausted his stores. Thousands of hearts responded to the tribute paid by one who knew him and loved him. He said, "Methodism had no better man to give." So he thought. So we thought. It seemed a bold challenge. Death accepted that challenge. From the very center, and in the foremost ranks of our long full lines, a glorious form—the very stoop of age and work, instinct with grace and beauty; breathing devotion to Christ and good will to man—trembles, wavers, staggers, falls. A Marvin falls! A Marvin dead!! Our Marvin gone!!!

There was but one, and he was ours. We felt secure. Our arms were around him. Our hearts encircled him. He was hid away in our inner lives. Others could die, but not a Marvin now. In the dim future, yes. We consented. Another would then be raised up in his place. But before we were ready—long before we were ready—Marvin our Marvin—our only Marvin falls. We stand amazed. We are overwhelmed. We wonder.

A voice is heard. "Be still and know that I am God." "Stand still and see the salvation of God." Our only strength lies in stillness now. We will stand still before God. We look up, not down, to see our dead, and learn God's lessons to the church. He speaks in this hour as He has not spoken in times passed. As props are removed, responsibility is developed.

The life of a Munsey, the work of a Duncan, the harvests of a Marvin, the toils of a Bledsoe, find their strangest illustrations and most potent applications in their fall. Sometimes God stresses a good man's life, in the great tripple block lines of his death. "He being dead yet speaketh." The almost startling purity, the almost strange self-abnegation—the strongly inspiring devotion and wonderful untiring labors of a Marvin, are now let into our lives, as with the engraving of a diamond. Lettered and syllabled, as nothing else could have done it, his fall unfolds his history. From the living man, and that which was to come, we look back on the past. The light will now linger around his first days and subsequent years, in the holy ministry, as a source of inspiration to us.

In this hour—the hour given to missions—for which his soul was all a flame—the hour that ought to bring to the birth undying thoughts, and consuming devotion to Christ and life—giving work for God. We hear him speak to us from the other side of the world, as He could not otherwise have done. We will see him as we never saw him, laying his trembling hands, burdened with the grace and love of God, upon the head of the converted heathen, sending him forth as an arrow shot from the bow of mercy, as a flaming light, as a sweet tongued messenger among his own benighted millions.

We see him to-night making the tour of the world, "from west to east," carrying light and life from the supposed home of darkness to the supposed home of light, as we could not have seen him living. We feel his presence in our midst to-night, not as a messenger, just from China, telling us in thrilling tones of the galling chains of sin and sorrow and death, but as a messenger from heavens, highest places of light and glory, calling us from indifference to organized earnest activity. We hear him to-night, telling us that the duty of the hour is not so much in arguing, as in strong statements of duty in mission effort.

The time has indeed come when not to accept the fact of obligation in this direction, is to reject the plainest truths of revelation and human experience—is to jeopardize personal salvation. We do accept the fact of obligation. We know duty at this point. Ours especially is a mission church. Among us it is not a matter of controversy. And yet, brethren, with a ready intelligent recognition of obligation, quickened into new life by the sweet and precious memories of the hour that comes crowding upon us—quickened by the life and mission labors of a Marvin—quickened by the anguished cry of the degraded heathen that comes hurtling through the thick mists that surround him—quickened by the broadening sweeps of the Angel of Mercy, as line after line of Gospel Work is thrown out, have we not neglected duty—have we not moved lazily forward instead of flying to meet it, and nobly bearing our part in the capture of a world for Jesus?

As already intimated, the duty of the hour is not so much to argue missions, as to make and accept strong statements of duty. The mission idea proper had no place in the Jewish Church. That economy ministered more directly to the human side—to the development of religious selfishness. It would seem that in all of Divine revelation to the Jew—at first, only a seething mass of emancipated slaves—the wounds of their yokes still fresh and green, and their intellects still clouded and imbruted, was a ministration to their religious selfishness. The thought gradually evolved from their sluggish brains, that they were God's peculiar people. The average religious conception was that God himself was moved by some selfish personal consideration yet to come out, in all his dealings with them. They were, to say the least of it, by whatever process, or by whatever motives, God's peculiar people. By the cold, unmanly process of proselytism only, could others find a place in their church, and become participants of its benedictions. And so with varying fortunes—now rising and now falling—the spirit of selfishness in religion culminated in the days of Jesus. In all the history of the Jewish church, there was no time when its face had harder lines, or its eye a more steel like glance.

And so far our instruction to-night—to teach us anew our duty, and inspire this hour with the joyous emotions of true life, this icy marble expression of religion—this religion that had no conception of the mission idea was in the fullness of its strength and maturity of its life, brought in strong contrast with the warm sympathetic life of Jesus, earth's first great missionary. His controversy with them was from this stand point This was the secret of their opposition, and the mantle of their strength. This it was that kindled subsequently the hottest, fiercest flames of prosecution that ever burned up human charity or charred and blackened the image of God in man. In the completion of the work of Jesus, a completion made perfect by their hatred to his missionary spirit—when with a loud cry—a cry that sounded throughout earth and went up and up and spent its strength upon the old grey hills of eternity—a cry that thrilled angels and amazed devils—when with a loud cry He gave up the Ghost, the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, the true idea of missions was brought to the birth. This was the fruit of the Divine travail—the conception of which caused silence throughout the joyous domains of heaven. The rending vail let in the light. The holy mystery

so long hid—so closely guarded, was disclosed. Each man becomes a king and priest to God. Not by the high priest now, and that once a year only, and with sin offerings for himself first—but each for himself, in the name of the true High Priest, enters into the Holy of Holies, and receives direct the ripest, richest benedictions of Heaven.

Just to the extent as Jesus was removed from the proud impure religionists of his day, is our religion removed from the anti-mission idea. Just to the extent as we fail in the warm hearted, seemingly impulsive spirit of missions—giving to others the light we ourselves have received, just in that ratio do we gravitate to the cold religious isolation of the Jew; just to that extent do we fail in the spirit of the very work that gave us, you and me, religious life, hope and joy.

But of what worth, brethren, is all of strong statement and acceptance of statement of duty, if it fails to produce action. As a conference we are lagging behind our peers. As a church, we are far short of the mark. In our home work, we are doing but little worthy the name of mission labor. Not that we lack territory. Not that there are not vast fields to occupy, and human beings to be brought to Christ. Your secretary has no statistics of any import to give. The question is a proper one, shall this continue and shall we, realizing our duty, not move forward to higher places? Then looking away from home, across the deep blue sea—across vast plains and over misty mountain tops, and behold the millions that cry to us for the bread of life, shall we continue sluggish in our movements, and insensible to the claims that God has upon us?

There never was a time in the world's history when the field was whiter to the harvest, or brought nearer our doors.

There never was a time when God made stronger appeals to our faith, to our charity, to our humanity. "What is truth?" "What must I do to be saved?" comes from every point of the compass, charged with the electric fires of the Holy Spirit. There never was a time when the avenues of approach were broader, more open or less difficult. The pathway of the ocean, so mysterious and wonderful has become a highway of safety and pleasure. Islands, that were wrapped in mysterious gloom, swarming with teeming thousands in the galling chains of sin and of death, have burst forth upon us like flashing gems in the morning's sunlight. Railroads have clambered up mountain sides and over mountain tops, have stretched their length along flowing rivers and green valleys, bearing christian commerce and civilization into countries hitherto inaccessible. The telegraph has searched out the bottom of the sea, and worked its way from point to point, sending its fiery message from continent to continent, telling the wondering people of the power of Jesus' name. Men of means and brains and daring, are making their way into and through the thick jungles of Africa, blazing out a way to the hearts and consciences of perishing millions. Light is let into regions upon which the pall of death has rested from the beginning. All things conspire together to inspire in us action, zeal and life. Shall we---the question comes from our Blessed Redeemer, energized and burdened with his dying love---shall we in the midst of these wonderful, amazing activities any longer linger by the way, and fail to move to the front and seize the crown made to fit our brow? Nay verily, we will gather up our forces—we will marshal our hosts—we will unite our hearts and lives, and by the love of Jesus, the watchful anxieties of holy augels, the pleadings of the Divine Spirit go forward to meet the obligations of the hour.

JOEL T. DAVES,
Secretary.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS, LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Cash on hand at last report		$1,005 99
Collected during the present year		670 75
Paid by Rev. J. E. Cobb, on pledge		10 00
Total		$1,686 74

CREDITS ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

By amount paid Lafourche Mission	$350 00	
" " Calcasieu "	175 00	
" " Evergreen "	75 00	
" " Saline "	50 00	
" " Jas. E. Bradley	150 00	
" " for Conference Minutes	175 00	
By amount cash on hand	711 74	
		$1,686 74

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Collected during the present year	$2,377 05
One-half of the anniversary collection	110 90
Total	$2,487 95

CREDITS ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

By amount paid China Mission, Felicity street Sunday School	$206 00	
By amount paid Foreign Missions, Felicity street Church	110 00	
By amount paid Foreign Missions, Moreau street Sunday School	83 00	
By amount paid Foreign Missions, Moreau street Church	40 00	
By amount paid Mexican Mission by Women's Missionary Society, St. Charles avenue	107 85	
By amount paid Foreign Missions, Lind Grove Church	60 00	
By amount paid Foreign Missions, Springville Church	10 00	
" " " New Iberia "	10 00	
" " " Monroe and Delhi Churches	52 40	
By amount paid Foreign Missions Pleasant Hill Church	150 00	
By amount paid Foreign Missions, Haynesville Church	10 00	
By amount cash on hand	1,666 20	
		$2,487 95

Paid through Rev. Linus Parker to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, the sum of $1,666 20.

C. W. CARTER,
Treas. La. Con. Mission Board.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR 1878.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

JOHN MATHEWS.....*President.*
R. S. TRIPPETT.....*Vice-President.*
JOEL T. DAVES.....*Secretary.*
C. W. CARTER.....*Treasurer.*

BOARD.

Clerical.

JOHN MATHEWS, R. S. TRIPPETT,
JOEL T. DAVES, J. A. MILLER,
N. S. CORNELL, C. W. CARTER.

Lay.

W. H. N. MAGRUDER, B. O. L. RAYNE, J. L. SCALES.

COMMITTEES OF EXAMINATION.

FOR CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION ON TRIAL.

BAXTER CLEGG, JOHN T. SAWYER, P. H. MOSS.
Class First Year—Jos. W. Medlock, B. F. Alexander, J. J. Billingsley.
Class Second Year—W. P. Owen, J. A. Miller, John Pipes.
Class Third Year—John Mathews, B. F. White, J. M. Brown.
Class Fourth Year—Jos. B. Walker, Jas. E. Cobb, C. W. Carter.

UNDERGRADUATES.

Class 1st Year.

R. M. Blocker, Patrick Calvin, J. T. Graham, Tiff Foster,
Abel Hoffpauir, J. L. P. Sheppard.

Class 2nd Year.

S. H. Werlein, T. K. Faunt Le Roy, J. B. Cassity, T. J. Hough.

Class 3rd Year.

A. M. Wailes, Wm. R. Whatley, David A. Boddie.

Class 4th Year.

G. T. Freeman, J. F. Patterson.

REPORT OF THE JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE OF THE LOUISIANA CONFERENCE.

NAME.	WORK.	Total Allowance.	Total Receipts.	Collected for Widows, Orphans and Superannuates.	Collected for Bishops.
Linus Parker, P. E	NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT	$600 00	$500 00	$25 00	
John Mathews	Carondelet Street	3,200 00	3,482 07	208 80	$128 30
J. B. Walker	Felicity Street	2,500 00	2,500 00	166 80	100 00
John Hannon	St. Charles Avenue	1,125 00	1,125 00	117 20	20 00
S. H. Schroeder	Moreau Street	400 00	492 50	30 00	10 00
John T. Sawyer	Louisiana Avenue	600 00	700 00	64 55	55 00
S. H. Werlein	Algiers	600 00	433 65	27 35	10 00
Lewis A. Reed	Lafourche Mission	800 00	175 00	8 00	
T. K. Faunt Le Roy	Plaquemine and Grosse Tête	500 00	500 00	50 00	5 00
A. E. Goodwyn	Baton Rouge	1,500 00	1,150 00	57 50	23 10
James L. Wright, P. E	DELHI DISTRICT	1,080 00	800 00		
Phil. H Moss	Monroe and Delhi	1,000 00	806 85	46 65	10 00
J. Lane Borden					
C. W. Carter	Trenton	1,000 00	990 00	55 50	12 00
Henry O. White	Bastrop	1,000 00	784 45	43 10	9 00
William P. Owen	Lind Grove	900 00	827 00	41 40	5 00
N. S. Cornell	Oak Ridge	500 00	300 00	16 50	10 00
Thos. H. McClendon	Rayville	750 00	420 00	21 00	10 00
T. S. Randle	Winnsboro	500 00	250 00	13 75	
A. M. Waites	Oakley	510 00	460 00	19 00	2 00
Baxter Clegg	Waterproof and St. Joseph	800 00	515 00	28 00	7 00
P. H. Diffenweirth	Tensas			2 90	2 00
B. F. Alexander	Floyd	800 00	310 00	15 50	5 00
R. S. Trippett	Lake Providence and Pecan Grove	1,000 00	600 00	21 00	10 00

John A. Miller	HOMER DISTRICT	1,100 00	754 75	39 75	
J. A. Parker	Homer	1,000 00	568 00	30 00	14 00
W. P. Kimball					
Thos. J. Upton	Lisbon	600 00	271 00	13 55	7 05
Joseph H. Stone	Haynesville	702 00	545 00	27 25	7 50
Jas. E. Bradley	Minden	750 00	750 00	46 50	14 00
R. M. Crowson	Sparta			9 00	3 00
J. F. Patterson	Arcadia	500 00	392 00	20 00	11 00
J. M. McKee	Vernon	700 00	625 00	41 25	10 00
C. W. Hodge	Indian Village		258 00	12 90	
Wm. R. Whatley	Lewisville	300 00	200 00	10 00	1 00
F. G. Hocutt	Downsville	500 00	266 00	16 00	9 00
Robert T. Parish	Farmerville	600 00	268 00	13 40	1 00
A. A. Cornett	Webster	435 00	278 00	13 90	
Robert Randle, P. E	SHREVEPORT DISTRICT	1,250 00	681 85	30 35	10 00
Joel T. Daves	Shreveport	1,500 00	1,283 90	75 00	12 00
Will. Hart	Mooringsport	500 00	370 15	18 00	3 45
J. M. Johnston	Caddo	500 00	400 00	25 00	9 00
	Logansport Mission				
John Pipes	De Soto	700 00	440 00	22 00	8 00
J. M. Brown	Mansfield	1,000 00	500 00	28 75	10 00
J. B. Cassity	Pleasant Hill	665 00	402 50	22 95	9 00
J. M. Franklin, Supernumerary					
Thos. J. Hough	Natchitoches and St. Maurice	400 00	450 00	22 50	5 00
	Natchitoches Circuit				
	Anacoco and Leesville	175 00	118 50	5 75	
Ph. Allen	Springville	600 00	383 99	22 70	6 15
Jeptha Landrum, J. C. Reid, Supply,	East Point and Lindsay's Chapel		604 00	14 00	5 00
J. W. Medlock	South Bossier	550 00		20 00	5 00
G. M. Liverman	North Bossier	550 00	322 65	17 60	5 00

REPORT OF THE JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE OF THE LOUISIANA CONFERENCE—Continued.

NAME.	WORK.	Total Allowance.	Total Receipts.	Collected for Widows, Orphans and Superannuates.	Collected for Bishops.
S. H. Cooper, P. E.	ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT				
C. Keener	Alexandria and Pineville	$600 00	$307 75	$15 55	$5 00
J. L. P. Sheppard	Rapides	450 00	280 00	5 00	5 00
J. W. Hearn	Montgomery			7 50	5 00
C. R. Godfrey	Harrisonburg and Sicily Island		400 00	20 00	6 50
D. A. Boddie	Centreville			15 00	5 00
Jno. F. Wynn	Columbia	700 00	500 00	25 00	10 00
Geo. Jackson, Supernumerary					
W. Biggs, Supply	Castor		69 50		
	Saline				
W. D. Stayton	Colfax	320 00	139 00	6 00	2 00
Frederick White	Bayou Bœuff		100 00	10 00	2 50
Robert Parvin	Evergreen	950 00	539 15	12 00	7 60
J. F. Scurlock	Spring Creek	500 00	191 80	10 55	10 00
James E. Cobb, P. E.	OPELOUSAS DISTRICT				
J. J. Billingsley	Opelousas	400 00	400 00	25 00	8 50
R. S. Isbell	Washington	800 00	502 30	31 40	9 70
Robert A. Davis	Vermilionville and Plaq. Brulée	600 00	402 10	22 85	5 00
J. V. Pointer	Grand Coteau	250 00	125 00	7 00	5 00
Enos B. Foust	Abbeville	500 00	257 90	13 00	5 00
Abel Hoffpauir	Pauperville	500 00	140 00		
M. C. Manley	New Iberia	800 00	570 55	54 25	5 00
B. F. White	Franklin	430 00	430 00	23 50	5 00
A. E. Clay	Pattersonville and Morgan City	600 00	500 00	25 00	5 00

J. D. Harper	Lake Charles	400 00	249 60	15 00	3 00
G. T. Freeman	Grand Chenière	200 00	58 00	3 00	
P. Galvin, Supply	Sugar Town	150 00	95 00	3 75	
W. B. Pilley	Calcasieu Mission	300 00	22 15		

Per Capita Amounts Paid by the Several Districts for Ministerial Support and Missions.

New Orleans	$7 57	Delhi	$3 95
Shreveport	2 19	Homer	1 36
Alexandria	1 08	Opelousas	1 07

REPORT IN DETAIL OF MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS IN THE VARIOUS STATIONS AND CIRCUITS.

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT.

	Foreign Missions.	Domestic Missions.
Carondelet Street	$205 40	$100 00
Carondelet Street Sunday School	203 50	
Felicity Street	143 50	100 00
Felicity Street Sunday School	206 50	
Moreau Street	40 00	25 00
Moreau Street Sunday School	83 00	
St. Charles Avenue	68 00	50 00
St. Charles Avenue Ladies' Missionary Society collected and paid to Bishop Keener for Mexican Mission	107 85	
Louisiana Avenue	106 00	44 70
Algiers	52 65	4 00
Baton Rouge	40 05	7 35
Baton Rouge Sunday School		20 00
Lafourche Mission	5 60	
Plaquemine and Grosse Tête	5 00	
	1,267 05	351 05

DELHI DISTRICT.

Monroe and Delhi	65 00	10 00
Trenton	43 30	10 00
Bastrop	80 00	6 00
Lind Grove	60 00	5 40
Oak Ridge	20 00	6 00
Rayville	38 00	5 00
Winnsboro		
Oakley	3 25	1 55
Waterproof and St. Joseph	37 50	7 50
Tensas		2 00
Floyd	13 50	5 00
Lake Providence and Pecan Grove	10 00	5 25
	370 55	63 70

HOMER DISTRICT.

Homer	15 00	9 00
Lisbon		
Haynesville	15 90	10 00
Minden	22 60	10 00
Sparta	6 00	
Arcadia	8 25	5 00
Vernon	25 00	7 50
Indian Village		
Lewisville	5 00	
Downsville	15 00	5 00
Farmerville	3 65	
Webster		
	116 40	46 50

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.

Shreveport	60	00	21	60
Mooringsport	8	25		
Caddo	30	00	9	00
Logansport Mission				
De Soto	25	00	7	00
Mansfield	28	65	20	45
Pleasant Hill	160	75	10	00
Natchitoches and St. Maurice	6	00	5	00
Natchitoches Circuit				
Anacoco and Leesville				
Springville	20	00	23	25
East Point and Lindsay's Chapel				
South Bossier	10	00	5	00
North Bossier	2	50	2	50
	341	15	98	80

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT.

Alexandria and Pineville	5	00		
Rapides	5	00	5	00
Montgomery				
Harrisonburg and Sicily Island			3	30
Centerville				
Columbia	6	00	6	00
Castor				
Saline				
Colfax				
Bayou Bœuff	2	50	2	50
Evergreen	31	65		
Spring Creek	5	45	2	75
	55	60	19	55

OPELOUSAS DISTRICT.

Opelousas	75	00	25	00
Washington	31	65	11	80
Vermilionville and Plaq. Brulée	7	75	6	35
Grand Coteau	2	00		
Abbeville	12	00	9	00
Pauperville				
New Iberia	50	00	5	00
Franklin	8	90	8	00
Pattersonville and Morgan City	20	00	10	00
Lake Charles	15	00	12	00
Grand Chenière				
Sugar Town	4	00	4	00
Calcasieu Mission				
	226	30	91	50

RECAPITULATION.

FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS:

New Orleans District	$1,267 05	
Delhi District	370 55	
Homer District	116 40	
Shreveport District	341 15	
Alexandria District	55 60	
Opelousas District	226 30	
		$2,377 05

FOR DOMESTIC MISSIONS:

New Orleans District	$351 05	
Delhi District	63 70	
Homer District	46 50	
Shreveport District	98 80	
Alexandria District	19 55	
Opelousas District	91 15	
		$670 75

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Louisiana Annual Conference Board of Missions

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

ARTICLE 1. This Board shall be denominated the Louisiana Annual Conference Board of Missions, auxiliary to the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

ART. 2. The Board shall consist of nine members elected annually by the Conference, five of whom shall constitute a quorum for business. At their first meeting the Board shall elect from their number a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and Treasurer. The Board shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring by death, resignation or otherwise.

ART. 3. The President, or in his absence, the Vice President, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

ART. 4. The Secretary shall keep full and complete record of all the proceedings of the Board, and prepare the annual report of the Board for the Louisiana Annual Conference, a copy of which report he shall forward to the Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and perform such other duties as the Board may direct.

ART. 5. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the funds and properties of the Board, subject to the order of the Board, and shall make a full report annually of all the receipts and disbursements; and he shall transmit to the Treasurer of the General Board all moneys he may receive for general purposes.

Art. 6. The Board shall regulate its own affairs. It shall have absolute control of the Missions it may establish, with the consent of the Preachers of the Conference, within its own bounds, and of the funds raised for their support. It shall hold a public Anniversary Missionary meeting at each session of the Conference, the proceeds of which shall be equally divided between the Conference Board and the General Board. It shall publish a full report of its operations every year in the Minutes of the Conference. It shall annually estimate the amount that may be necessary for the support of the Missions of the Conference, and apportion the same to the Presiding Elders' District for collection ; and it shall divide the apportionment of the General Board among the several Districts of the Conference.

ART. 7. An annual collection shall be taken up in every congregation, by the Preacher in charge, in aid of the Conference Missions, and another in aid of the Foreign Missions, the proceeds of which shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the Board.

ART. 8. This Constitution may be altered and amended by a vote of a majority of the Conference at any of its annual sessions.

DISTRICTS.	MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS.						CHURCH PROPERTY.					
	Collected for Church Building and Repairs.	Collected for Parsonages.	Paid for House Rent.	Collected for the Poor.	Collected and Expended for Local Missions.	Collected for other objects.	Number of Churches.	Value of Churches.	Number of Parsonages.	Value of Parsonages.	Other Property.	Total Value of Church Property.
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT.												
Carondelet Street	$63 80			$429 00		$1,620 82	1	$40,000 00				$40,000 00
Felicity Street	500 00			213 40		119 25	1	35,000 00				35,000 00
Moreau Street	25 00			24 25		467 40	1	20,000 00				20,000 00
St. Charles Avenue				26 50		686 50	1	30,000 00			4,000 00	34,000 00
Louisiana Avenue	225 30			28 90		60 50	1	6,000 00				6,000 00
Algiers				111 00		9 60	1	5,000 00				5,000 00
Lafourche Mission						10 33	4	6,000 00	1	200 00		6,200 00
Plaquemine and Grosse Tête	900 00						2	1,500 00	1	1,800 00		3,300 00
Baton Rouge						193 25	1	25,000 00			300 00	25,300 00
	1,714 10			833 05		3,167 65	13	168,500 00	2	2,000 00	4,300 00	174,800 00
DELHI DISTRICT.												
Monroe and Delhi	125 00			20 00		260 00						
Trenton						18 50	2	5,500 00			2,200 00	7,700 00
Bastrop		34 00		10 00		97 80	2	2,800 00	1	1,200 00		4,000 00
Lind Grove							2	2,000 00	1	1,000 00		3,000 00
Oak Ridge							1	1,600 00			30 00	1,630 00
Rayville		500 00				16 15			1	700 00	75 00	775 00
Winnsboro							2	5,000 00				5,000 00
Oakley			50 00				3	3,000 00				3,000 00
Waterproof and St. Joseph						12 00	1	1,000 00	1	600 00		1,600 00
Tensas							3	1,800 00				1,800 00
Floyd							6	5,000 00		50 00		5,050 00
Lake Providence and Pecan Grove	285 00			10 00		265 00	2	1,000 00			750 00	1,750 00
	410 00	534 00	50 00	40 00		671 45	24	28,700 00	4	3,550 00	3,055 00	35,305 00
HOMER DISTRICT.												
Homer	2,400 00						2	3,400 00				3,400 00
Lisbon							4	2,000 00				2,000 00
Haynesville							4	2,800 00			400 00	3,200 00
Minden	157 00			4 50		14 25	3	2,500 00				2,500 00
Sparta												
Arcadia							2	1,000 00				1,000 00
Vernon	317 34	484 00		70 00			3	2,000 00	1	700 00	250 00	2,950 00
Indian Village												
Lewisville	30 00						3	800 00			30 00	830 00
Downsville	1,000 00	100 00				26 00	7	4,200 00	1	600 00	300 00	5,100 00
Farmerville												
							2	600 00				600 00

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.

Shreveport	200 00		270 00	30 00		26 00	1	3,000 00				3,000 00
Mooringsport	56 00					12 25	2	1,600 00				1,600 00
Caddo	600 00			52 00		8 00	2½	1,500 00	1	300 00	300 00	2,100 00
Logansport Mission												
De Soto							3	2,000 00				2,000 00
Mansfield						7 25	1	3,000 00	1	600 00		3,600 00
Pleasant Hill	1,040 00	25 00		10 00		32 50	7	3,500 00	1	500 00	5,300 00	9,300 00
Natchitoches and St. Maurice	125 00	350 00		25 00			1					
Natchitoches Circuit												
Anacoco and Leesville							1	400 00				400 00
Springville							1	500 00	1	500 00	50 00	1,050 00
East Point and Lindsay's Chapel												
South Bossier							2	1,200 00		200 00		1,400 00
North Bossier	200 00	34 00					4	1,900 00	1	250 00	128 00	2,278 00
	2,221 00	409 00	270 00	117 00		86 00	25½	18,600 00	5	2,350 00	5,778 00	26,728 00

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT.

Alexandria and Pineville				15 00			2	6,000 00	1	3,500 00	50 00	9,550 00
Rapides	150 00						9	300 00	1	400 00	400 00	
Montgomery				5 00			2	600 00				
Harrisonburg and Sicily Island	90 00					13 50	2	3,000 00				
Centerville			40 00				2	1,200 00	1	500 00		
Columbia				50 00	100 00	6 00	3	3,000 00				
Castor							3	300 00				
Saline												
Colfax												
Bayou Bœuff							1	500 00				
Evergreen						2 50	5	4,100 00				
Spring Creek	20 00					15 35	1					
	260 00		40 00	70 00	100 00	37 35	30	19,000 00	3	4,400 00	450 00	9,550 00

OPELOUSAS DISTRICT.

Opelousas	250 00						1	3,800 00	1	800 00		
Washington		18 75		19 00			1	2,000 00	1	650 00		
Vermilionville and Plaq. Brulée	66 00						2	2,050 00	1	1,000 00	300 00	
Grand Coteau							1	300 00				
Abbeville						66 00	1	2,000 00			350 00	
Pauperville							2	800 00				
New Iberia	12 00	15 00				30 00	1	6,000 00	1	2,000 00		
Franklin	744 95	730 00				345 05	2	4,000 00	1	2,500 00		
Pattersonville and Morgan City	220 00			40 00		6 50	1	1,200 00	1	800 00		
Lake Charles						9 35	1	1,300 00			300 00	
Grand Cheniere												
Sugar Town	195 00						2	400 00			400 00	
Calcasieu Mission												
	1,487 95	763 75		59 00		456 40	16	23,850 00	6	7,750 00	1,350 00	

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Extract from Report of Committee on Sunday Schools:

"These figures (in the statistical tables) show a gratifying increase except in the number of volumes in libraries, and in the amount collected for missions.

Your committee are still of the opinion that as a Conference we cannot over estimate the importance of the Sunday School work. We do not deem it necessary to review the arguments in favor of the Sabbath School institution, as it already occupies its proper place both in our ecclesiastical economy and in the heart of the Church. Nor do we think it needful to exhort our brethren in this direction. The gratifying increase in numbers shows that both preachers and people are awake to the interest of this great cause, and all we have to do is to maintain our earnestness and continue to prosecute the work until the entire territory shall have been permeated by the saving influence and power of the Sunday School.

Compared with last year's figures, the present show two facts worthy of special notice. The first is that the number of scholars received into the Church is more than double the number received last year. The second is the increase of subscriptions to our Sunday School periodicals. It may be expected that we account for the decrease in library volumes and missionary contributions. We can only say that the adoption of the uniform lesson system obviates, in some measure, the necessity of filling our libraries, and also that money has been expended for more expensive volumes than heretofore.

The deficit in missionary collections is due, we suppose, to the scarcity of money.

In conclusion, we recommend the following, viz:

Resolved, That we continue with unabated interest and zeal to prosecute the great Sunday School work within our bounds, and to make it a special point to organize Sunday Schools where none already exist."

B. F. WHITE,
J. M. BROWN,
J. L. SCALES,
} Committee.

EDUCATION.

The following resolutions were appended to their report, viz:

CENTENARY COLLEGE.

Resolved, That we regard Centenary College as peculiarly and sacredly our own institution, necessary to the interest of education, and deserving the confidence and support of the Conference and Church.

Resolved, That we cordially commend the College to the confidence of the Church and people, and earnestly solicit their patronage as necessary to the support and upbuilding of this important interest, and the promotion of sanctified learning among the youth of the Church and country.

MANSFIELD FEMALE COLLEGE.

Resolved, That we, the Louisiana Annual Conference, do most heartily commend the Mansfield Female College to the patronage of our people as worthy of full confidence.

Resolved, That the Board of Managers for 1878 be Rev. John Pipes, Rev. Joel T. Daves, Major Wm. Baynon and Israel Brown, and that the Board of Trustees for 1878, be as follows:

Clerical—J. M. Brown, J. A. Miller, R. J. Harp, B. F. Alexander, B. Clegg, G. M. Liverman, R. Parvin, J. Pipes, Fred. White, J. M. Franklin, J. M. Johnston.

Lay—H. J. Davis, T. A. Armstrong, E. W. Jackson, N. C. Gibbs, W. D. Gooch, J. M. Gibbs, J. Porter, R. W. Freeman, H. S. Kennedy, N. G. Jordan and H. Hampton.

READVILLA SEMINARY.

Resolved, That we recommend Readvilla to the continued patronage of those who have daughters to educate, recognizing in its venerable, pious principal all that can assure of tender, maternal care, and wise training of mind and heart.

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE—BATON ROUGE.

Resolved, That we heartily commend to the favorable consideration of our people the School of Prof. W. H. N. Magruder, as worthy of the patronage of all who have sons to educate.

MRS. M. M. HAYES' SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES—OPELOUSAS, LA.

We cheerfully recognize the said institution as worthy of the support of the public, and especially of members of our Church, and we heartily commend it to all persons who appreciate the moral and intellectual education of our young people and desire to secure the best facilities to that end.

JNO. PIPES, CHAIRMAN.

HOMER COLLEGE.

Resolutions on Homer College:

Resolved, That this Conference deems it to be wise and expedient that the Homer District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, should exercise certain supervisory control over the management of the affairs of the Homer College, and especially the right to create and to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees of said institution.

Resolved, further, That it is the sense of this body that an amendment to the act of incorporation of the said College, embracing the foregoing recommendations, should be presented to the Legislature at its next session; and that three members of this body be appointed at the present session to prepare said amendment, and cause the same to be presented to the Legislature for adoption.

Resolved, further, That as soon as the said legislation shall have been accomplished, this body will transfer to the District Conference in question, such control and authority in the management of the said institution as now vests in it by virtue of the act of incorporation, or otherwise.

Rssolved, That the Bishop be requested to appoint the following named brethren: James E. Bradley, Jos. H. Stone and John A. Miller, a committee to carry into effect the above resolutions.

JOHN PIPES, CHAIRMAN.

BIBLE CAUSE.

Extract from Report of Committee on Bible Cause:

"As the Bible lies at the base of all civil and social order, and as it is the only source of true religious knowledge, this Conference recognizes the

necessity of circulating the Holy Scriptures among all men; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Louisiana Conference will heartily co-operate with the American and Southwestern Bible Societies in their laudable efforts to accomplish that end.

Resolved, That we will take up a collection in our congregations in aid of the Bible cause.

Resolved, That the Bishop be requested to reappoint our brother, James A. Ivy, to the agency of the S. W. Bible Society.

JOS. B. WALKER, CHAIRMAN.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS.

The following resolutions were appended to the Report from the Committee on Church Publications:

WHEREAS, Under its present accomplished editor and energetic publisher, the New Orleans Christian Advocate is a paper second to none within the bounds of the Southern Conferences;

And Whereas, It is our Conference organ, and as such its support is of vital importance to the cause of Methodism in our State, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we hereby pledge ourselves to present the claims of the New Orleans Christian Advocate, beginning to do so when we get to our work, until every family in our Church, and others that can be reached, have the paper as a weekly visitor.

2d. *Resolved*, That it is with pleasure we have heard from Dr. T. O. Summers. We regret he has been prevented from visiting us, but are glad to hear of the prospects of the Nashville Advocate, and cordially recommend it to our preachers and people, after they have subscribed to our own Conference organ.

3d. In regard to the St. Louis Christian Advocate and Depository:

Resolved, That we recommend them to our people who may desire another Church paper, after having supplied themselves with our own Advocate and the general Church organ.

Also, Resolved, That we endorse, as eminently useful, the publications referred to in a communication from the St. Louis Publishing House.

4th. In reference to the New Orleans Repository:

Resolved, That in accordance with the request of the Board of Trustees of the New Orleans Depository, they are hereby authorized to have renewed the act of incorporation which expired on the 6th of May, 1876, by a special act of the Legislature or otherwise, as the said Board may deem it expedient, and for as great a number of years as possible.

5th. In reference to the Nashville Publishing House:

Resolved, That we will, during the month of January, submit the cause of the Publishing House to our congregations and do our utmost to raise a large collection for its relief.

Resolved, further, That we will supply ourselves with catalogues of the Nashville publications, and let no opportunity escape during our pastoral visiting of getting said publications among the people, making cash sales, and remitting to Dr. Redford, without delay.

6th. In regard to our claim before Congress:

Resolved, That we recognize the propriety, right and justice of the claim of the Publishing House, based on military occupation of said house by United States troops, and the consequent destruction of type and much valuable property, and recommend that every opportunity and means be used to press the claim to a successful issue.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR CANDIDATES.

FOR ADMISSION ON TRIAL.

STUDIES.—The Bible, in reference to doctrines generally; Wesley's Sermons on Justification by Faith, and on the Witness of the Spirit; Book of Discipline; the ordinary branches of an English education.

Class of First Year.

STUDIES.—The Bible, in reference to its historical and Biographical parts, and its chronology; Book of Discipline, with special reference to chapter 1, sections 1 and 2; Manual of Discipline, chapters 1 and 2; Wesley's Sermons, vol. 1: Ralston's Elements of Divinity; Watson's Institutes, part 4; Preacher's Manual; Redford's History of the Organization of the M. E. Church South; Written Sermon on Repentance.

Books of Reference—Watson's Biblical and Theological Dictionary; Theological Compend; Fletcher's Works; Watson's Life of Wesley.

Class of Second Year.

STUDIES.—The Bible, in reference to its prophetical parts; Wesley's Sermons, vol. 2; Watson's Institutes, part 3; Smith's Elements of Divinity; Book of Discipline, with special reference to chapters 2, 3 and 4; Manual of Discipline, chapters 3 and 4; Coppee's Rhetoric; Written Sermon on Justification by Faith.

Books of Reference—Newton or Keith on the Prophecies; Angus' Hand-Book of the Bible; Claude's Essay on the Composition of a sermon; Watson's Sermons; Bickersteth on the Spirit of Life, and Whateley's Rhetoric.

Class of Third Year.

STUDIES.—The Bible, in reference to the Life of Christ; Wesley's Sermons, vol. 3; Watson's Institutes, part 2; Coppee's Logic; Edgar's Variations of Popery; Book of Discipline, with special reference to chapter 5 to the end; Mannal of Discipline, chapters 5, 6 and 7; Rivers' Mental Philosophy, and Written Sermon on the Witness of the Spirit.

Books of Reference—Young's Christ of History; Neander's Life of Christ; Hickok's Mental Science; Vinet's Pastoral Theology; Stevens' History of Methodism; Paine's Life of McKendree; D' Aubigne's History of the Reformation; Whateley's Logic;

Class of Fourth Year.

STUDIES.—The Bible, in reference to the Acts and Epistles, their analysis and design; Wesley's Sermons, vol. 4; Watson's Insti-

tutes, part 1; Powell on Apostolical Succession; Hickok's Moral Science; Mosheim's Church History; Summers on Baptism; Book of Discipline, reviewed; Manual of Discipline, chapters 8 and 9; Written Sermon on Regeneration.

Books of Reference.—Butler's Analogy; Bingham's Antiquities; Rivers' Moral Philosophy; Hoppin's Homiletics; Wall on Infant Baptism; Litton's Church of Christ; Neander's Church History; Liddon on the Divinity of Our Lord; Conybeare and Howson's Life and Epistles of St. Paul.

COMMENTARIES.—Clarke's, Watson's Exposition, Wesley's Notes, Summers on the Gospels, Stier's Words of the Lord Jesus, Lange on the New Testament, Olshausen on the New Testament, Alford on the New Testament, Bloomfield on the New Testament, Macknight on the Epistles, Henry's Exposition, Whitby's Commentary.

NOTE.—The examination will be confined to the course of study. The books of reference are recommended to be read, and the commentaries to be consulted. The undergraduates and the committees of examination are required, by resolution of Conference, to be present at 9 A. M., Tuesday, before Conference session.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES—OF WHOM COMPOSED.

The following is the rule respecting the organization of District Conferences:

The District Conference shall be composed, first, of all the preachers, traveling and local, in the District; and, second, of one lay delegate for every forty members, or fractional part thereof, within the bounds of each Circuit, Station and Mission in the District. The lay members shall be elected by the several Quarterly Conferences, and no Quarterly Conference shall be denied two lay delegates.

CONFERENCE VISITING COMMITTEES.

CENTENARY COLLEGE:

Rev. Jas. E. Cobb, Rev. C. W. Carter, W. H. N. Magruder.

MANSFIELD FEMALE COLLEGE:

Rev. Robt. Randle, Rev. John Pipes, A. B. McCutcheon.

DELEGATES ELECT TO GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1878.

Clerical—Linus Parker, DD., C. W. Carter, Jas. E. Cobb, Jno. A Miller.
Alternates—Joel T. Daves, Jno. Mathews.
Lay—Edward J. Gay, W. H. N. Magruder, Jno. L. Scales, B. O. L. Rayne.
Alternates—W. H. Foster, R. J. Bowman.

ACT OF INCORPORATION OF THE LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, M. E. CHURCH SOUTH.

AN ACT

To Incorporate the Louisiana Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened*, That John C. Keener, H. N. McTyeire, J. Saunders, R. Randle, J. B. Walker, S. J. Davies, L. Parker, Philo M. Goodwyn, and L. A. Reed, and their associates and successors, such as the Louisiana Annual Conference may, from time to time, think proper to appoint, be and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, under the name and style of the "Louisiana Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South," and by which name and corporation shall have succession and be capable of suing and being sued, entering into contracts and receiving and holding property for educational purposes and such charitable uses as may, from time to time be specified by the said Conference at its annual sessions, either by donation or purchase.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted, etc.*, That the domicile of said corporation shall be located in the City of New Orleans, and the affairs thereof shall be managed by nine trustees, to be appointed by the Louisiana Annual Conference, one of whom shall be elected president. The president and four trustees shall form a quorum, and shall have power to appoint all other officers necessary for conducting its affairs, and make and adopt such rules, by-laws and regulations as they may deem proper for the management of the said corporation; provided, that the same be in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and not repugnant to the laws of the State.

JOHN M. SANDIDGE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
ROBERT C. WICKLIFFE,
President of the Senate.

Approved March 15, 1855.

P. O. HEBERT,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:
ANDREW S. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LEGAL CONFERENCE.

LINUS PARKER, President.	PHILO M. GOODWYN,
ROBERT J. HARP,	R. S. TRIPPETT,
J. O. FUQUA,	BENJ. F. ALEXANDER,
JOHN MATHEWS,	W. H. FOSTER,

ALEX. E. GOODWYN.

Resolved, That the Conference Board of Trustees be instructed to hold a meeting at every session of the Conference, and to make a report in due form to the Conference of their proceedings, and of all matters in their charge.

Resolved, That the Act of Incorporation be published annually in the printed minutes.

ADVERTISEMENTS.